

IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims are set forth below and have been amended and/or cancelled, without prejudice, where noted:

1-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing bimodal polyethylene polymer comprising:

combining ~~under pressure~~ porous polystyrene beads with a catalyst represented by the formula (I)



wherein R is a methyl group and R' and R'' are phenyl groups both substituted at the 2 and 6 positions with methyl, isopropyl or tertiary butyl groups;

obtaining styrene supported catalyst;

washing the styrene supported catalyst;

supplying the styrene supported catalyst to a first reaction zone;

maintaining the first reaction zone under conditions effective to obtain porous polyethylene beads;

combining the porous polyethylene beads with polymerization catalyst component and subjecting the combination to reduced pressure thereby obtaining supported catalyst;

washing the supported catalyst;

supplying the supported catalyst to a second reaction zone;

maintaining the second reaction zone under conditions effective to obtain bimodal polyethylene polymer; and

obtaining bimodal polyethylene polymer.